Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
October 16, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Attending: David Franke, Heidi Fiedler, Joshua Meck, Hunter Ahrens, Eric Frey, Esq. of E. Kenneth Nyce, and Keith Shuman.

Guests: Several members of the public.

Attending the Zoom: Pat Demming and Richard Demming, as well as several members of the community.

David Franke called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Dave Franke motioned to amend and approve the agenda adding a discussion to set a budget meeting. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Joshua Meck motioned to amend and approve the agenda. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

SEPTMEBER 20, 2023 MINUTES

Heidi Fiedler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 20, 2023. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BUSINESS

Discussion of Creek Flooding Responses

Mr. Ahrens made a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Township's five-year financial forecast. Mr. Ahrens discussed an overview of the long-term fund balance projection which showed significant deficits. Mr. Ahrens discussed how decisions in 2020, 2021, and 2022 built deficits experienced in 2023, which were exasperated by unforeseen expenses in 2023 including creek projects, more road work, expenses related to the conditional use process, and recycling cost increases. In addition to these, large increases in Police Department expenses contributed to a structural deficit that was brought to the Board's attention in 2022. Mr. Ahrens added that ARPA funds brought in 2021 and 2022 masked large budget changes that created the deficits. Mr. Ahrens shared that there was an approximate $500,000.00 structural deficit in 2023.

Mr. Ahrens summarized the Township's services to be road work; public safety; building, codes and zoning regulations; stormwater regulations; and public parks. He highlighted the areas of the budget that were available for reductions, including personnel. The impact of a lack of road work was highlighted as well, specifically how it grows a financial liability for long-term improvements and maintenance.

Mr. Ahrens also highlighted several revenue scenarios that would improve the financial picture for the Township, including tax increases and a recycling fee increase. Mr. Ahrens also highlighted several long-term strategic concerns including fire services; police services; ambulance services; MS4 infrastructure; Bridge Replacement costs; Road Improvements; Cash Flow needs; rebuilding a rainy-day fund; and long-term use of a capital finance fund.

The Board engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of options for the future. Several ideas that were discussed by the Board of Supervisors were reviewing trash and recycling contracts in the future, specifically by the use of public engagement resources. The Board also discussed implementing a recycling fee. Mr. Ahrens shared that in the future, a more complex fund accounting basis would require an enhanced audit by a professional auditor.

The conclusion of the discussion was for $6,000.00 to be included in the budget for connecting with the community to assess interest in trash collection, the financial impacts of issuing a bond in 2024, and the implementation of a recycling fee. Mr. Franke also emphasized that he believed it would be necessary to increase taxes in light of the Township's financial condition.

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting for the budget on November 15, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Township Building.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joshua Meck and seconded by Heidi Fiedler. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hunter L. Ahrens
Township Manager